



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: May 2026



Public Service announcement from the Editor

It is not too late. Make sure you read all the way to the end. Great information about Kansas American Legion College to wrap this up.

Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

I can hardly believe it is already May! School will soon be out, future leaders are graduating and starting the next chapters in their lives. If you have any graduates in your life encourage them to get or stay involved with their community. Volunteering can be a healthy place to focus their newly acquired adult freedoms. That could mean getting them involved with the American Legion family, being a scout leader, helping at church, or a host of other opportunities – bottom line, encourage them to work on improving the world around them and being part of the solution, not the problem. I'm possibly a little biased but I think joining and being active with the American Legion family is a great way for a young man or woman to impact lives of others while bettering themselves as well.



Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day, it was formalized by a "Memorial Day Order" issued by Grand Army of the Republic Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan in 1868. It is a federal holiday held the last Monday in May, is the nation's foremost annual day to mourn and honor its deceased service men and women. I hope you have made plans to participate or attend a Memorial Day event as it is just around the corner. Many Posts decorate veteran's graves with flags for the weekend - if you don't

participate already, ask if you can help. If you are already helping with an event, thank you. The Sons of the American Legion Americanism Commission per Resolution VI adopted by National Executive Committee in Spring 2022 has adopted ongoing support of the Flying Flags For Heroes program. The goals of Flying Flag For Heroes are to place 1,000,000 flags at veterans' graves, & place at least one flag in every Detachment. Please visit www.flyingflagsforheroes.org/ for more information and to report flag placement.

We just finished District Convention season; in April I was able to attend First District Convention and want to thank Vice-Commander Christenberry for his hospitality. I truly wish I was able to join more of you for your conventions, unfortunately my work schedule did not allow for that this year. Congratulations and good luck to all of the newly elected District officers, I'm certain you will do an amazing job this next year.

I want to thank the Squadrons that have contributed to the Detachment Commander's project, the Kansas Cadet Law program. There is still time if you're interested in contributing to this program, please send your checks to the Detachment of Kansas write "Commander's Project" in the memo line, and mail to the Detachment Finance Officer Mike Saindon, 312 E. Tall Tree Rd, Derby, KS 67037.

In closing, thank you for all you do! Keep being the best part of the Sons of The American Legion.

For God and Country,
Matthew Krupco
Kansas Detachment Commander

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Sons

The Sons of the American Legion in Kansas has made strong progress this year, currently reaching 90.42% of our membership goal with an 81.99% renewal rate. These numbers reflect the dedication and commitment of our squadrons across the state. However, they also highlight an important opportunity: reconnecting with members who have not yet renewed.

At this stage, success will not come from broad reminders alone—it will come from personal outreach. Behind every non-renewed membership is an individual who once chose to be part of our mission. Many may simply need a reminder, while others may be waiting for a reason to return.

Renewal efforts are most effective when they are intentional and personal. A quick phone call, a short message, or a friendly conversation can make all the difference. Members are far more likely to renew when they feel remembered and valued, rather than just counted. This is especially true within organizations like ours, where relationships and shared purpose are at the heart of everything we do. It's also important to recognize that not all members are in the same situation. Those who have recently lapsed may just need a simple reminder and an easy way to renew. Members who have been inactive for a longer period may require a more thoughtful approach—one that reconnects them to the mission of supporting veterans, their families, and our communities.



As we continue this final push, clarity and simplicity are essential. Every outreach effort should clearly explain how to renew and who to contact. The easier we make the process, the more likely members are to follow through.

Equally important is creating a sense of shared purpose and momentum. We are within reach of an important milestone, and every renewal brings us closer. Encouraging friendly competition between squadrons, recognizing achievements, and emphasizing the collective impact of our membership can all help drive engagement.

This effort should not rest solely on leadership. Every member has a role to play. A simple call or message from a fellow member can be more powerful than any formal communication. When members reach out to those they know personally, it strengthens not only renewal rates but also the bonds within our organization.

The path from 90% to 100% is where commitment truly shows. It requires persistence, coordination, and a personal touch. By working together and focusing on meaningful outreach, we can close the gap and ensure that every member has the opportunity to remain part of the Sons of the American Legion family.

Now is the time to reach out, reconnect, and finish strong.

Lets also remember "GET ONE FOR THE LEGION"

Your Detachment Vice Commander
Michael Weber

Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas Scholarship Committee met Wednesday (3-4-26) to determine that scholarship winners for this year. The committee picked the following to receive scholarships.

The winner of the \$1000 U.S. "Udie" Grant scholarship is:

Hunter Barnhart, 113 9th Street, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006 (Gardner 019)



The five winners of the \$500 Jay B. Thielen Scholarships are:

Bryee Squires, 1317 Landon Street, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501 (Hutchinson 68)

Dakota Week, 21591 Y Road, Brownell, Kansas 67521 (Brownell 382)

Taylor Bienhoff, 215 S 4th Street, Mayetta, Kansas 66509 (Atwood 46)

Daniel J. Biggs, 1302 NW 52 Terrace, Topeka, Ks 66618 (Topeka 400)

Jace F. Phillips, 1208 8th Street, Wamego, Ks 66547 (Manhattan 017)

Thank you

Michael Saindon
Scholarship chairman
Detachment of Kansas

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

Kansas American Legion College: There's still time to register for the 2026 Kansas American Legion College! Details on the classes offered and the registration form are at the end of the SALute. ***It's not just for American Legion Family leadership*** – all members are welcome and can benefit from attending. Plus, it's a great opportunity to meet Legion Family members from across the state and form lasting, beneficial relationships.



Several urgent reminders...

Squadron Data Reports were mailed to all Squadrons at their sponsoring Post's address on 20 March 2026 and were due at Department Headquarters by **24 APRIL 2026**. The information provided on this form will be entered at mylegion.org as the contact information for your Squadron. Failure to meet the 24 April deadline may cause your Squadron's first renewal notice to be mailed with incorrect information. *These reports were originally due 9 April.*

Notification of Post/Squadron Commander & Adjutant Form This report was also mailed on 20 March 2026 and is to be completed and returned to Department Headquarters after your Post/Squadron elections, by **1 July, 2026**. The information provided on this form will be entered at mylegion.org as contact information for your Squadron.

Consolidated Squadron Reports were due by 1 May, 2026. Consolidated Squadron Reports may be submitted by the Squadron leadership through your mylegion.org account. National will notify the Detachment when a Squadron submits their report online. The hard copy blank reports will be mailed soon. ***Remember that while no one does everything, everyone does something! All of your Squadron events and expenditures are significant and deserve to be reported!***

All reports are used at State and National levels to inform our Legislators and Congress what the American Legion accomplishes in our communities each year.

National Commander Attends Address by His Majesty King Charles III:



American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley, along with his daughter Christy, were honored this week to attend the Garden Party hosted On the Occasion of the State Visit to the United States of America by His Majesty, the King of England. Wiley was present in the Capitol gallery during the King's speech to the joint session of Congress as one of 12 guests of His Majesty, representing the American Legion.

Grassroots Support:

STAY INFORMED: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES NOW AVAILABLE

Want to see the issues Legionnaires are discussing with lawmakers? The 119th Congress, 2nd Session Legislative Priorities materials are available now. View and download them on the Legion website [here](#).

CALL TO ACTION

This month, The American Legion is again calling on you because combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive.

The **Major Richard Star Act** aims to rectify this by allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their

earned retirement pay and disability compensation without offset.

Your action in advancing this crucial legislation is essential and greatly appreciated. 80 of our nation's Senators have co-sponsored this legislation, but we need 100%. Contact your Senators today!

The American Legion appreciates all the emails you have sent so far.

Go to the [Action Center](#) to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress and let's maintain Kansas' nationwide lead in contacting our elected representatives.

Kansas is back in **first place** in contacting our elected representatives in Congress – keep up the good work!

NEED TO FIND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS? <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Address>

THIS WEEKS TOP GRASSROOTS DEPARTMENTS:

Kansas	280
Tennessee	250
Wisconsin	234
New York	78
Indiana	57

Register more participants in your Department and help amplify the voice of veterans on Capitol Hill. Maybe your state just might earn a spot-on next week's Letter Board! Register with the link below:

<https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Register>

Upcoming events:

- Department Convention - 29-31 May 2026 - Topeka Ramada
- Kansas American Legion College - 5-7 Jun 2026 - Concordia
- Kansas Legacy Run - 12-14 June 2026 – details on <https://Kansasalr.com>
- Kansas American Legion Bowling Tournament – 11-12/25-26 July 2026 – see the flyer on SALKansas.org or KansasLegion.org

Thanks for all you do and remember to **Be The One!**

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

The Sons of the American Legion,
Detachment of Kansas introduces a new program
that will benefit the entire Legion family!



Get One For The Legion!

This program rewards Sons of the American Legion members for doing the work and supporting the American Legion, while the Legion gets the new members and continues to grow their membership and stay alive and active. ***And the whole American Legion Family benefits:*** Every time the Legion gains a new member, chances are there are family members that are eligible to join the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and Cruisers.

How it works: Any SAL member (regular, dual, or triple) that recruits a NEW legion member gets a polo shirt courtesy of the Detachment of Kansas. The detachment pays for the shirts and the embroidery. On one side of the shirt, it is embroidered with "Got One For The Legion Family" and on the other side it is embroidered with the SAL logo/emblem. The shirts were designated to be a bright neon color for two reasons: 1) When you know the program and see someone wearing the shirt, you know they signed up a new legion member 2) It is a great conversation starter for people unaware of the program. The shirt color will change each year, but will be a bright color to draw attention to the program.

Go to <https://salkansas.org> to download the submission form!





Get One For The Legion Submission Form



Recruiting SAL Member Name:		Membership ID #:	
Squadron #		Squadron City:	
Recruiting SAL Member Mailing Address:		Polo shirt size: S-5XL	

New Legion Member Name:		Address:	
Phone:		Email:	
Date Member was signed up:		New Membership ID#:	
Post City:		Post #	
Post Adjutant Approval - Name:		Post Adjutant Membership ID#:	
Signature:		Date:	

Detachment Adjutant signature:	Date:
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Email to det.adj.ks@gmail.com (preferred) or print and mail to Get One for the Legion, c/o Argonne Post 180, Box 721, Great Bend, KS 67530

Kansas American Legion College Schedule

Friday, June 5, 2026

3:00 PM-9:00 PM Housing Area **Registration**, Pick up your packets and room keys. (if staying in dorms)

3:00 PM-5:00 PM YL222 **Membership Meeting**, District Commanders and Vice Commanders will present their District Membership Plans for the year. A printed copy of the plan will be required. Oral presentation should be 5-10 minutes.

5:00 PM-6:00 PM GR201 **Official Legion Family Photographs** - with Jeff Bond – This room will also be open between classes and during lunch on Saturday.

5:00 PM-7:00 PM Cafeteria **Dinner**

6:15 PM-7:30 PM Cook Theater **DEC Meeting**, Open to guests unless in executive session, Districts Commanders should have Time/Date/Location of Homecomings.

8:00 PM-??? Pizza Hut **O-POOP-PAH-DOO**, Come join the fun

Saturday, June 6, 2026

6:30 AM-8:00 AM Cafeteria **Breakfast**

8:00 AM-8:50 AM Cook Theater **KALC Orientation and Legion Family Etiquette, Q & A** - The written and unwritten rules of the American Legion Family, presented by Marri Krupco and Jen Carder.

9:00 AM-9:50 AM Cook Theater **Commander** - This class is great for current and future Post Commanders, learn the basics of running a Post and where you can find more detailed information about post operations, presented by Myra Jowers and Mike Harris.

PA255 **MyLegion.org for Legion & SAL Individuals, Posts, Squadrons, and Districts**- you will be trained on how to register for an account, navigate, and update your personal information and how to use some of the helpful features of the system. Bring a laptop or mobile device that you will use on a regular basis to access myLegion if you can, this will be in a computer lab if you don't have a portable device to bring, presented by Julie Miller and Jim Simpson.

GR204 **Finance Officer 1**- Learn how to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal finance laws that apply to all posts, presented by Eszter Blair and Dave Apgar

GR206 **Chaplain & Historian** – Learn the roles and responsibilities of a Post Chaplain and a Post Historian, presented by Debra Muylaert and Richard Johnson, Dan Stacy and the Kansas Department Historian

GR205 **Post Service Officer 1**- Kansas Office of Veterans Service (KOVs) Overview - This session will cover an update from KOVs and overview of services and locations of the KOVs Offices and how best to interact with them to assist their post members, presented by Trevor Willemsen, KOVs West Supervisor.

GR207 **ALA The Pebble** - Leadership qualities needed to support members in being successful, presented by Tracy Kinnick and Kim Smith

10:00 AM-10:50 AM Cook Theater **Conflict Resolution** – This course focuses on conflict resolution through the lens of servant leadership, emphasizing the importance of empathy, active listening, and collaborative problem-solving to foster trust and unity, presented by Jen Carder and Clarence Frye

PA255 **Adjutant 1** - learn about reporting, transmission of memberships, minute taking, and your role in assisting other post officers, presented by Julie Miller and Jim Simpson.

GR204 **Finance Officer 2**- Learn how to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal finance laws that apply to posts with club rooms or gaming licenses, presented by Eszter Blair and Dave Apgar

GR205 **Post Service Officer 2**- American Legion Service Offices Overview - This session will provide an overview of how Post Service Officers can best use the Legion Service Offices in Leavenworth, Topeka and Wichita to assist their Post Members, presented by Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer and Jeniffer Clark, Veteran Service Representative

GR207 **ALA Leadership styles** - Identifying your leadership style and how that information can be used to work with others, presented by Anndi Bownes and Kim Smith

GR203 **SAL 101**- Starting out at the Squadron level and learning the basics, presented by Rick Miller and Jeff Kerns

11:00 AM-11:50 AM Cook Theater **Servant Leadership Part 1**- This course will delve into the fundamentals of Servant Leadership and examine how it enhances the American Legion while fostering values of service, integrity, and civic responsibility, presented by Jen Carder and Clarence Frye.

PA255 **Adjutant 2**- A continuation of Adjutant 1 where you began to learn about reporting, transmission of memberships, minute taking, and your role in assisting other post officers, presented by Julie Miller and Jim Simpson

GR205 **Post Service Officer 3**- American Legion Service Offices Panel Discussion This session will allow attendees to learn tips to enhance their role as Post Service Officers by discussing Case Studies and sharing of Best Practices, facilitated by Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer and Jeniffer Clark, Veteran Service Representative

GR204 **Gaming & Bingo**- Learn how to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal finance laws that apply to posts with gaming licenses, presented by Kristen Hensley and Kevin Schasteen

GR207 **ALA ABC's of the Auxiliary** - What is required and what is tradition. Open discussion format with questions and answers, presented by Anndi Bownes and Kim Smith

GR203 **SAL 202**- The bigger picture, How to utilize the resources of district and beyond, presented by Rick Miller and Matthew Krupco.

12:00 PM-1:00 PM Cafeteria **Lunch**

1:00 PM-1:50 PM Cook Theater **VA Panel** – Panel discussion by leaders from the VA Medical Centers, facilitated by Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer

2:00 PM-2:50 PM Cook Theater **Servant Leadership Part 2**- In this second class, students will apply servant leadership principles to real-world Legion programs and initiatives, focusing on member engagement, community outreach, ethical decision-making, and developing future leaders who are

committed to serving veterans, their families, and their communities, presented by Jen Carter and Clarence Fry.

GR205 **Post Service Officer 4-** Post Service Officer 201 training by Department Service Officer Tim Marlar.

GR206 **Social Media – The Good, The Bad, The Ugly** – The benefits and potential risks of an online presence for your post family. Includes a discussion of the prominent platforms, an overview of creating a Facebook page, connecting to Instagram, and monitoring its performance. Proper usage of Legion emblems and branding will also be discussed, presented by Chris Krueger and Rick Miller.

GR203 **SAL Membership workshop** - Not just the tricks and tips, but the more important why and how, presented by Michael Weber and Terry Harris

3:00 PM-3:50 PM Cook Theater **The Legion Family puzzle:** - District and beyond, how it and the different branches of the family all fit together, presented by Mike Cole, and Larry Eubanks.

GR206 **Creating better documents with Microsoft Word** – Do you struggle with creating documents with Word, like meeting agendas, letters, and tables? Do you avoid it altogether? Then this is the class for you! We'll discuss licensing, the user interface, basic document formatting (including Fonts, Paragraphs, and Tabs), and saving in various document formats, presented by Chris Krueger and Rick Miller.

GR205 **Constitution and Bylaws Part 1-** How and why it is important to have your constitution and bylaws up to date and how to do so, presented by Kevin Schasteen and Marri Krupco.

PA255 **ALA Alimas (Part 1)**- The ins and outs of using Alimas from membership to recruitment. Participants will need to bring their login and password for Alimas, presented by Kristen Hensley, Tracy Kinnick and Kim Smith

4:00 PM-4:50 PM Cook Theater **Four Pillars** – Compare the Four Pillars to the Programs connected to them, discuss importance of keeping the four pillars forefront in all things that a Legionnaire does in all their endeavors, presented by Jen Carder and Mike Cole

PA255 **ALA Alimas (Part 2)**- The ins and outs of using Alimas from membership to recruitment. Participants will need to bring their login and password for Alimas, presented by Kristen Hensley, Tracy Kinnick and Kim Smith

GR205 **Constitution and Bylaws Part 2-** Continuation of Part 1 with time for questions, presented by Kevin Schasteen and Marri Krupco.

GR203 **SAL Q&A** - We will bring the experienced folks, you bring the questions, presented by Matthew Krupco, Terry Harris, and Michael Saindon

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Post 76 **Dinner**

7:15 PM-8:30 PM Post 76 **CWF Auction (Donations Needed)**

8:30 PM-?? Post 76 **Karaoke**

Sunday, June 7, 2026

7:30 AM-8:45 AM Cafeteria **Breakfast**

9:00 AM-9:50 AM Cook Theater **District Officer** – The responsibilities, Do’s and Don’ts of being a District Officer with an SOP and how this helps posts, presented by Marri Krupco, Jen Carder and James Snyder

10:00 AM-10:50 AM Cook Theater **Membership Recruiting and Retention Forum (Legion Family)** - Round table type discussion including the use of membership impact reports, led by the Outgoing and Incoming Membership Committee

Registration on next page

Also available on SALKansas.org

Kansas American Legion College Registration

Cloud County Community College in Concordia

June 5-7, 2026

Mail to: Department Headquarters

1314 SW Topeka Blvd

Topeka, KS 66612

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone & Email

Member of _____ Post, Unit, Squadron, Guest (circle one)

Post Service Officer Training Yes or No (circle one)

YES, I will need meals at KALC for \$50 for the weekend

I wish to attend KALC but will arrange my own meals and lodging – \$5

Total Enclosed